

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Edward Springs Rx Fire

Proposal Number: 1482

DWR Region: Southern Region

Lead Agency: USFS

County: Iron

Project Manager: Nate Yorgason

PM Phone: 4358656113

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 7/1/2009

Project Location: This area is located NE of the Bear Valley Guard Station on the northern portion of the Cedar City Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest.

Project Description: Rx fire on approximately 1000 acres within identified 3500 acres along with post burn aerial seeding on approximately 500 acres. Cut, pile and burn 66 acres of riparian area to regenerate aspen.

Description of Problem/Need: Background: The majority of the project area consists of pinyon/juniper (PJ) and mountain shrub vegetation types (including sagebrush). There is a small amount of riparian vegetation along the west edge of the project boundary along Cottonwood Canyon. The riparian zone contains mostly mid to late aged aspen with an understory of snowberry, wild rose, and chokecherry. PJ and white fir have encroached into the riparian zone. Grazing of cattle along with encroachment has limited regeneration of aspen. The PJ/mountain shrub vegetation types contain trees between 8-12 feet tall with 5-20% canopy cover. Sagebrush, bitterbrush, and rabbitbrush are the main shrub species present. Prior to the exclusion of fire this area was dominated by sagebrush/grass lands. PJ has encroached into the area over the last 100 years.

Objectives: Broadcast burning with weeding of PJ. Management objectives are to reduce older shrub classes and pinyon/juniper (PJ) densities and increase the representation of the forb/grass/young shrub component and increase the diversity of forage for wildlife and cattle as well as improving the overall conditions of the riparian area. The long-term goal is to return to a landscape dominated with a diverse mountain brush/grass/forb understory and a more historic distribution of PJ. The long term goal in the riparian areas is to have a diverse shrub undersory with multiple age classes and little to no PJ encroachment. The goals for this treatment are to burn all 1,108 acres removing 50-60% of the PJ and decadent shrubs and to remove all PJ encroachment and induce sprouting of aspen in the 66 acre riparian area.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: Helps meet conservation agreement strategies for sage grouse habitat improvement. Helps meet habitat restoration goals for mule deer and elk per Herd Management Unit #28 plans. Helps meet conservation strategies outlined in the Partners in Flight Avian Conservation Plan for at risk species in mountain shrub/sagebrush/pinyon & juniper and riparian habitats. Helps meet Dixie National Forest Plan habitat restoration goals and objectives.

This project is connected with other projects in the Cottonwood drainage and within Bear Valley to improve big game winter and transition range and improve sage grouse habitat by removing encroaching pinyon and juniper trees, regenerating aspen and rejuvenating decadent mountain shrub and sagebrush to provide for a wider range of age classes and plant diversity.

Potential Risks: There is a chance that our prescribed fire could escape and burn more area than we would like. There are some structures present within a few miles of the site and they could be threatened in the event of an escaped fire.

Proposed Methods: We have two treatment areas in Edward Springs.
1. Use a helicopter (or possibly hand ignition) to ignite 1,042 acres of brush, shrubs, and conifer trees along with post burn aerial seeding on approximately 500 acres.
2. Cut, pile and burn 66 acres of riparian area to regenerate aspen.

Shapefile Name: S:/DWR/HPD-2010/GIS Shape Files/1482.shp

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: We have completed pre burn monitoring. The forest will continue to monitor at one, three and five year intervals.

Grazing Management:

SPECIES BENEFITING

Monday, March 16, 2009 1:23:31 PM

Project Proposal

Northern Goshawk	Mexican Spotted Owl	Greater Sage-grouse	Lewis's Woodpecker
Allen's Big-eared Bat	Townsend's Big-eared Bat	Fringed Myotis	Spotted Bat
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Williamson's Sapsucker	Black-throated Gray Warbler	Mule Deer
Gray Vireo	Virginia's Warbler	Common Kingsnake	Elk
Merriam's Wild Turkey			

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
USFS	1108
Total	1108

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Unfunded Balance	\$21,035.00		\$0.00
USFS	\$38,310.00		\$38,310.00
Totals	\$59,345.00		\$38,310.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Other	RX fire and associated costs	\$21,035.00	\$0.00
Other	Seed and aerial seeding	\$0.00	\$27,610.00
Personal Services	USFS Burn Planning	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Personal Services	USFS Burn prep work	\$0.00	\$8,700.00
	Totals	\$21,035.00	\$38,310.00

Project Map:

